

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 R

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APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301523

STADIS//////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM BUCHANAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, MASS

SUBJECT: COMPOSITION OF USG DELEGATION TO MILITARY
ASSISTANCE COORDINATION TALKS

, I HAVE CHECKED INTO POSSIBILITY OF HAVING COL.
GIRACCI AS MEMBER OF DELEGATION TO DISCUSS MILITARY
ASSISTANCE COORDINATION WITH FRENCH AND BELGIANS AND
RECEIVED NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM DOD.

2. I AM SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR SUGGESTION BUT I AM
AFRAID THAT VERY LARGE BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES
EXIST. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS A FIRM OPPOSITION IN DOD
FOR ORGANIZATIONAL AND CHAIN OF COMMAND REASONS, TO
ANY PARTICIPATION BY ZAMISH PERSONNEL.

3. WHILE WE HERE IN AF COULD ATTEMPT TO CHANGE DOD'S
VIEWS, I FIND THAT WE ARE IN WEAK POSITION TO DO SO.
GUIDELINES FOR THIS MEETING WILL EMPHASIZE BROAD
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING DESIRABILITY OF BELGIAN-
FRENCH-USG COORDINATION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
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ZAIRE. COL. GIRACCI'S ON THE GROUND EXPERTISE IS NOT

PERTINENT TO THIS LEVEL OF DISCUSSION SO WE WOULD BE

GOING AGAINST GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. (LATEST IS DATED JULY 29, 1976 FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON). THESE INSTRUCTIONS CLEARLY LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN DELEGATIONS TO OFFICIALS WHOSE PRESENCE IS NECESSARY TO THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE DELEGATION AND SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZES DEPARTMENT POLICY THAT "THERE IS NO NECESSITY OR INTENTION THAT EVERY ELEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY ... WHICH HAS INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER" BE REPRESENTED ON A DELEGATION.

4. GIVEN THESE CONSIDERATIONS I DO NOT BELIEVE FURTHER EFFORTS ON OUR PART TO INCLUDE GIRACCI ON THE DELEGATION WOULD BE WORTHWHILE.

5. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL KEEP YOU PROMPTLY AND FULLY INFORMED. ACTION MEMORANDUM LAYING OUT OUR GENERAL THINKING IS BEING POUCHED TO YOU AND SEPTTEL CONTAINING AGENDA AND RELATED INFORMATION IS IN THROES OF FINAL CLEARANCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON DIFFERENT POINTS OF AGENDA, TACTICS, COORDINATION PROBLEMS AS YOU HAVE SEEN THEM ETC.

6. WE ARE NOW PROPOSING TO HOLD TALKS IN EARLY JANUARY. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE301523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMARKS:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-1164
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761250/aaaabrpf.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 NOV 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPOSITION OF USG DELEGATION TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION TALKS , I HAVE CHECKED INTO POSSIBILITY OF HAVING COL.
TAGS: MASS, CG, US
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006